

Remarks

Claims 1-26 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute similar or broader claims in a continuation application. New claims 27-48 are sought to be added. Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 27-48 are pending in the application, with 27, 41, and 48 being the independent claims. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Support for the new claims is found throughout the originally filed specification and drawings.

Objection to the Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a) as not showing claimed subject matter. Although Applicants disagree with this objection, Applicants have canceled claims 1-26 in order to expedite prosecution. Based on the canceling of claims 1-26, Applicants believe this objection is now moot.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph

The Examiner rejected claim 26 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Although Applicants disagree with this rejection, Applicants have canceled claims 1-26 in order to expedite prosecution. Based on the canceling of claims 1-26, Applicants believe this rejection is now moot.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §§102(b) and 103(a)

Claims 1, 9-13, 15, and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,146,662 to van Albada ("van Albada"). Claims 1, 3, 9-11, 13, 15, and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 1,501,979 to Willson ("Willson"). Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being as being unpatentable over either van Albada or Willson in view of page 9 of the instant specification. Applicants traverse these rejections.

Although Applicants disagree with these rejections, Applicants have canceled claims 1-26 in order to expedite prosecution. Based on the cancellation of claims 1-26, Applicants believe the rejections are now moot.

New Claims 27-40

New claim 27 recites:

A prism having an axis of symmetry, comprising:
a non-planar first portion that is symmetrical about the axis of symmetry;
a non-planar or a substantially planar second portion coupled at an angle with respect to the non-planar first portion; and
a cylindrical opening running from the first portion to the second portion along the axis of symmetry.

None of the previously applied references teach or suggest at least a cylindrical opening running from the first portion to the second portion along the axis of symmetry. This is because the previously applied references taught using conventional lenses or lens systems in various optical systems. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner find claim 27 allowable. Also, at least based on their dependency to claim 27, new claims 28-40 should be found allowable.

New Claims 41-47

New claim 41 recites:

A prism having an axis of symmetry, comprising:
a non-planar first portion that is symmetrical about the axis of symmetry, the non-planar first portion having an outside surface, comprising,
a machined layer, and
a coating layer substantially covering the machined layer; and
a non-planar or a substantially planar second portion coupled at an angle with respect to the non-planar first portion.

None of the previously applied references teach or suggest at least a non-planar first portion having an outside surface comprising a machined layer and a coating layer

substantially covering the machined layer. This is because the previously applied references taught using conventional lenses or lens systems in various optical systems, and did teach or suggest having higher quality surface finishes for those conventional lenses. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner find claim 41 allowable. Also, at least based on their dependency to claim 41, new claims 42-47 should be found allowable.

New Claim 48

New claim 48 recites:

An apparatus, comprising
an optical element that is symmetrical about an axis of symmetry, the optical element including:
a substantially planar top portion;
a substantially planar bottom portion, which is substantially parallel to the top portion;
a substantially conical body portion located adjacent the top portion and adjacent the bottom portion; and
a cylindrical extension having first and second ends, the second end being adjacent the top portion and extending from the top portion,
wherein the top, bottom, and body portions of the optical element are symmetrical about the axis of symmetry,
wherein the top and bottom portions of the optical element have a central, circular opening therein,
wherein the body portion of the optical element has a cavity including a cylindrical region and a conical region,
wherein an axis of symmetry of the cylindrical region is along the axis of symmetry of the optical element,
wherein an axis of symmetry of the conical region is along the axis of symmetry of the optical element,
wherein the cylindrical region is adjacent the central, circular opening of the top portion of the optical element and the conical region,
wherein the second end of the conical region is adjacent the central, circular opening of the bottom portion of the optical element, and
wherein the first end of the cylindrical extension is adjacent the central, circular opening of the top portion of the optical element.

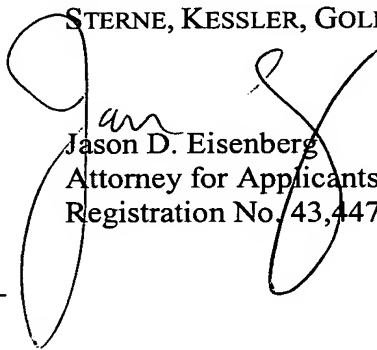
None of the previously applied references teach or suggest this combination of features. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner find claim 48 allowable.

Conclusion

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested. Applicants believe the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

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